

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6272
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASH DC
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS PINT PO
SUBJ: OPORTO BOMBING CASE DECIDED

REF: OPORTO A-21 OF SEPT 3, 1976

SUMMARY: THE COURTS HANDED DOWN A DECISION IN THE NORTHERN BOMBING CASE JULY 6 SENTENCING FIVE INDIVIDUALS TO SENTENCES RANGING FROM THREE TO 21 YEARS. THE COURTS EXONERATED ELEVEN OTHER ACCUSED INCLUDING FORMER OPORTO POLICE CHIEF MAJOR MOTA FREITAS. END SUMMARY.

1. JUDGEMENT RENDERED: THE EIGHT-MONTH TRIAL OF SIXTEEN ALLEGED PARTICIPANTS IN A NORTHERN BOMBING RING CAME TO

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AN END JULY 7. THE FIFTH MILITARY TRIBUNAL SENTENCED RAMIRO DOS REIS MOREIRA TO 21 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND FOUR OTHER MEN TO SENTENCES RANGING FROM THREE TO NINE YEARS. ELEVEN OTHER SUSPECTS WERE EXONERATED INCLUDING FORMER OPORTO POLICE CHIEF MAJOR MOTA FREITAS WHO WAS ACCUSED OF MORAL AND MATERIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE BOMBINGS.

2. REACTIONS: BOTH THE PROSECUTOR AND DEFENSE LAWYERS SAID THEY WOULD APPEAL THE VERDICT. IN GENERAL, THE LEFT IS UNHAPPY AND THE RIGHT IS SATISFIED. COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" HEADLINED JULY 7 "BOSSES FREED AND UNDERLINGS CONDEMNED." THE CONSERVATIVE PRESS POINTED TO THE COURT'S FINDING THAT THE EXISTENCE OF A CONSPIRACY HAD NOT BEEN PROVEN. CONSERVATIVE MILITARY OFFICERS ON JULY 8 EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION TO ARMA OVER RELEASE OF FELLOW ARMY OFFICER MOTA FREITAS. MORE LEFTIST OFFICER TOLD ARMA THAT LEFT WOULD NOT COMPLAIN TOO VIGOROUSLY SINCE LEFTISTS ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO PENDING LEGAL ACTIONS.

3. COMMENT: LIKE MANY A PORTUGUESE CRISIS, THE OPORTO BOMBING CASE BEGAN WITH A BANG AND THE THREAT OF DAMAGING REVELATIONS (REFAIR), BUT APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED WITH A WHIMPER.

BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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